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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SHOWA
DENKO K.K. [JP/JP]; 13-9, Shiba Daimon 1-chome, Mi-
nato-ku, Tokyo 105-8518 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KAIMURA,
Satoru [JP/JP]; c/o SHOWA DENKO K.K., OYAMA
REGIONAL OFFICE, 480, Inuzuka 1-chome, Oyama-shi,

Tochigi 323-8678 (JP). TAMURA, Takashi [JP/JP]; c/o
SHOWA DENKO K.K., OYAMA REGIONAL OFFICE,
480, Inuzuka 1-chome, Oyama-shi, Tochigi 323-8678 (JP).

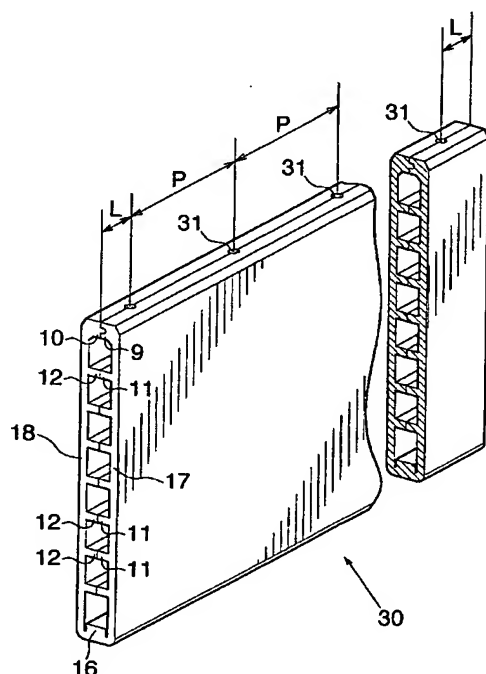
(74) Agents: HIBI, Norihiko et al.; c/o KISHIMOTO &
CO., 3rd Floor, Inaba Building, 13-18, Nishishinsaibashi
1-chome, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 542-0086 (JP).

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(54) Title: SEMIFINISHED FLAT TUBE, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SAME, FLAT TUBE, HEAT EXCHANGER COM-
PRISING THE FLAT TUBE AND PROCESS FOR FABRICATING THE HEAT EXCHANGER



(57) Abstract: A semifinished flat tube 30 is for use in pro-
ducing a flat tube 1 comprising an upper and a lower wall 2, 3
opposed to each other, and left and right opposite side walls 4, 5
interconnecting the upper and lower walls 2, 3 at opposite side
edges thereof. The semifinished flat tube is produced from a
metal plate 15 having two flat first portions 17, 18 for making
the upper and lower walls 2, 3, a second portion 16 intercon-
necting the two first portions 17, 18 integrally for forming the
right side wall 5, and two third portions 9, 10 projecting upward
from the respective first portions 17, 18 integrally with the first
portion each at a side edge thereof opposite to the second por-
tion 16 for making the left side wall 4, by bending the metal
plate 15 to the shape of a hairpin at the second portion 16 to
cause the third portions 9, 10 to butt against each other. The two
third portions 9, 10 are joined to each other by laser welding in-
termittently from outside at a plurality of portions spaced apart
longitudinally thereof.

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